20 and not more than 50 consumer clubs in one or more geographically contiguous districts will be serviced by a coordinating agency. A well established educational institution, a non-governmental voluntary organization or a professional body shall be designated as the coordinating agency.

The Department of Consumer Affairs shall provide financial support @ Rs. 10,000/- per annum per consumer club to the coordinating agency from the Consumer Welfare Fund. The coordinating agency will assist and monitor the functioning of each club.

Outstanding amount of sugarcane growers

†2613. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether outstanding amount of sugarcane growers has been assessed by Government;

(b) if so, the total outstanding amount during June, 2003;

(c) whether Government have decided to allocate Rs. 600 crores for paying the outstanding amount; and

(d) if so, allocation made to the farmers out of the above amount, State-wise and amount-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) As on 30.6.2003, the outstanding amount of sugarcane dues to the sugarcane growers for the season 2002-2003, was about Rs. 3181.75 crores.

(c) and (d) In order to liquidate the sugarcane price dues of the farmers, the Government has taken the following measures:-

(i) A buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar has been created for a period of one year. This will enable the sugar mills to get a subsidy amount of Rs. 412 crore from the Sugar Development Fund. In addition, an amount of Rs. 374 crores would be available from the banks to the mills on account of buffer stock. Thus, a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

total amount of Rs. 786 crores would be provided to the mills enabling them to clear the payment of cane price dues to the sugarcane growers.

(ii) In order to boost export of sugar, Government has amended the Sugar Development Act, 1982 to enable it, *inter alia*, to utilize the Sugar Development Fund for defraying expenditure on internal transport charges & neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage to the sugar factories on export shipments of sugar.

Financial package for sugarcane farmers

†2614. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sanctioned Rs. 600 crores from the Sugar Development Fund for the four Sugarcane growing States, namely, Punjab, Haryana, U.P. and Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, whether this is done to assist the sugarcane farmers who were not paid as per the State Advisory Prices (SAP) especially in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, Government's stand with regard to providing assistance from the said fund to Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Purchase and storage of wheat by FCI

2615. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat purchased by Food Corporation of India and other State agencies during the period April to June, 2003, State-wise and agency-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.